

Braille Transcribers . . .

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may encounter.

Mrs. Kniseley, whose office is located at DeVilbiss High School is personally responsible for the transcription of all tests on the high school level, either into large print, for the partially sighted students, or into braille. An average high school math test, in algebra or geometry, for example, takes "the better part of an hour" to transcribe. And that amount of time is multiplied, of course, by the number of students who must take each such test. Similar programs are in operation at DeVaux and Elmhurst schools, for children in the junior high and elementary grade levels.

"We try to give these children every single thing that they need in order to make it out there," Mrs. Kniseley said. Volunteer efforts make it more possible for each child to have a chance at an education, because they strip away a large amount of what might otherwise be a prohibitive cost for schooling. As an example, Mrs. Kniseley pointed out that a single copy of a large-print math book for a high school student could cost more than



Mr. John Goerlich, Chairman of the Board Toledo Society for the Blind

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\$200. Through volunteer efforts, these materials are made available free of charge.

Because it is the only program of its kind in northwestern Ohio, students within a 50-mile radius of Toledo also are helped by the volunteer work.

Mrs. Kniseley said that youngsters in need of the services provided by the program for visually impaired students are referred to her in a number of ways. Parents themselves may make contact with the program, or a concerned teacher or school nurse may refer a child.

There is a preschool program available for both parents and children and Mrs. Kniseley is a counselor in that area.

"Helping the family to cope with the blindness of a child often is the thing which will keep the family together, and thus give the child a chance for a normal home life.

"It is very difficult to be the parent of a blind child. People often blame themselves, when they learn of their child's handicap. But in most cases it's a passing phase. You realize that for the sake of yourself and your child you have to get on with life.

"I advise people to begin by taking things one day at a time. Tomorrow somehow always manages to take care of itself."

Although there are more than 20 braille transcribers in the Toledo area, Mrs. Kniseley stressed that the need for still more volunteers is great. Those interested in the program may contact her at DeVilbiss High School, or Mrs. Mervin Levey, through The Temple. (Reprinted with permission from The Blade)



Dr. William H. Havener (center), takes time out during a discussion with Dr. Robert Huss and Dr. Carol Kollarits for the Newsletter photographer. Dr. Havener, a professor and the chairman of ophthalmology at Ohio State University, spoke on "Cataracts" at the Third Annual Lyle Kirk Lecture last Spring sponsored by both the Society and the Downtown Lions Club. The lecture was well attended.

New Trustees Named

Two new appointments to the Board of Trustees recently were made. Messrs. Robert Murray and Robert Oberhouse have assumed trusteeships, bringing the number serving on the Board up to 15.

Mr. Murray is retired from St. Luke's Hospital in which he served as vice president of support services. His career at St. Luke's spanned 21 years. Currently, he is associated with DiSalle Realty. Mr. Murray, a south Toledo resident, is married with two children.

Mr. Oberhouse is a rehabilitation counselor for the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission—Bureau of Services for the Blind. He is a blind veteran from World War II and past district governor for Lions International. A resident of Pemberville, Ohio, Mr. Oberhouse is married with three children.

The Toledo Society for the Blind is a Community Chest agency funded in part by the annual United Way campaign and has a particularly dedicated Board of Trustees. These entrusted Toledo businessmen serve without pay or expense money. If you wish to make a contribution to the Society, please have every confidence that your donation will be handled properly by our Board.


For further information about the Society, please feel free to contact any board member. Other members include: Walter H. Cline, Thomas R. Day, John Goerlich, Harry Kessler, Robert D. Kiess, M.D., William A. Marti, Mrs. John G. Meszaros, Louis Paine, Frank G. Pletz, Franklin Schroeder, Charles E. Trauger, Richard Vining, and Louis Zavac.

Society Used For Special Project

Ms. Carolyn Wehl, a graduate student in special education at the University of Michigan, has been using the Society's facilities to work on a special research project being funded by the Bureau of Education for the Handicapped and the Office of Education.

Ms. Wehl is working with a two-year-old blind boy to explore the possibilities of using a sonar device as a mobility aid for young children. The device, which currently is used by adults, would be used in a modified form for both infants and young children.

the Toledo Society for the Blind

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Diverse Age Group Participates In Camp Experience



All ages join in for an old-fashioned hayride at Camp Hemlock.

Summer camps. Lots of kids—girls, boys, juniors, seniors, young adults. Just about every conceivable age group. But how about a summer camp that incorporates a group from ages 9 to 86—most of whom are blind or partially sighted?

Camp Hemlock, located near Hillsdale, Michigan, hosted just such a diverse group recently. Nearly 30 persons participated in the week long camping experience which was sponsored by the Toledo Society for the Blind.

"The purpose of the camp was to acquaint unsighted people with an outdoor environment which many had never experienced," according to Gayle Horst, Rehabilitation Teacher. "Many in the older group surprised even themselves at what they could do when they joined in on some of the younger activities."

The camp program included activities

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Holiday Greeting Cards Soon Available

With the month of September comes the start-up of school, numerous social events, and seasonal beginnings for many organizations—all of which make Fall a short season indeed. Riding on the coattails of Fall is, of course, the holiday season, a season which requires advance preparation for all of us.

Once again, the Toledo Society for the Blind offers its annual selection of holiday greeting cards, tailored to suit your individual needs.

Enclosed are card samples which are appropriate for business, religious, or personal use. To order, select one or more cards from the samples, complete the enclosed postpaid order card, and drop in the mail. Please allow \$4.75 extra per card selection if you desire your name to be imprinted on your cards.

If you choose to order some of these cards, you will be neither charged nor

billed for them. Instead, we ask that you make a contribution to the Society. Anything over the amount you normally spend for holiday cards is tax deductible.

Your donation helps support programs such as eye screening, summer camp, the medical clinic at St. Vincent Hospital, family night, and help for blind bowlers.

Your annual support in this program is sincerely appreciated.

“1-2-3-Stretch!”

“Str-r-e-t-c-h, all the way. Let’s get those arms up—all the way up to the ceiling. Good, Now, down. To the very tips of your toes. And back to starting position. Great!”

If you happened to be at the Society any Tuesday or Friday at 3 in the afternoon during the summer, most likely you heard words, at least to this effect, waft their way down the hall.

No, it wasn’t Jack LaLanne coming through on a TV set. Rather, Keith Strandberg, an instructor in the martial arts working for the summer at the Lucas County Recreation Center, was teaching body conditioning to a class comprised of both blind and sighted persons. (Keith also is a student at Oberlin College.)



Instructor Keith Strandberg works with Gayle Horst (left) and Dan Mock.

In all, a group of approximately 15 people took advantage of the free classes.

“Keith started the class with simple exercises,” Madge Levinson, volunteer coordinator at the Society, explains. “But each week classes got a little tougher.”

Most definitely, Keith’s class created awareness of physical fitness among

its members. More than once, an occasional jogger has been spotted winding his way through the Society’s corridors.

Diverse Group

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like archery, golf, volleyball, and crafts such as macrame, beadwork, weaving and pottery. But most campers enjoyed swimming, canoeing, and rowboating the most, Ms. Horst added.

Ropes posted from the dining area helped direct the campers to their cabins. A sound device called a “cricket” aided archery, jarts, and golf participants. The device, which is placed near any game target, emits a high-pitched sound thereby giving direction to the player. The blind and partially sighted campers learned quickly to navigate well through the 15-acre camp which is situated in a hilly area alongside a small lake. Camp Hemlock is owned and operated by St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, on Erie Street.

Early reports from returned campers indicate that the food, prepared by Doris and Bill Haubert, was excellent. David Reape and Kirk Logsdon assumed lifeguard duties for the week while Janet Einhart, Susan Nichols, Lisa Armstrong, Dale Bretz, David Geisert and Dale Homler served as counselors. A number of school teachers from special education programs also helped.

Our thanks to these people who each contributed toward making camp an exciting week—for both first-time and repeat campers.

Workshop Evaluation Brings Society One Step Closer to Accreditation

The Toledo Society for the Blind currently is striving to achieve accreditation through the National Accreditation Council for Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped (NAC).

In connection with that goal, the Society received a federal technical assistance grant through the State of Ohio which enabled a review of the Society’s workshop operation. Mr. Harold Richterman, director of the rehabilitation services division of the National Industries for the Blind, provided recommendations.

National Industries for the Blind represents about 95 workshops for the blind throughout the country. Consultants like Mr. Richterman are

available to perform time studies, cost analyses, engineering studies, and the like. NIB also is involved in generating government contracts for workshops for the blind.

“Mr. Richterman spent four days in June reviewing our workshop facility,” Barry McEwen, executive director for the Society, said. “Since then, he has made recommendations regarding implementing work evaluation and adjustment services in the overall improvement of our industrial operation.”

Eventually, the operation will be upgraded to include fringe benefits for its blind employees, Mr. McEwen added.

New Appointments Made

Madeline Levinson has been named volunteer coordinator for the Society. Madge will be responsible for the organization of a volunteer program which includes recruitment, screening, training, and evaluation.

Madge has served as executive director of the Jewish Community Services for Northwest Indiana, field director for Maumee Valley Girl Scouts, and director of Fallen Timber Day Care Center. She is active in various community groups and a past chairman of UNICEF.

* * *

Gayle Krauss Horst, M.A.R.T., assumed responsibilities recently as a rehabilitation teacher. Gayle will teach visually impaired and blind individuals homemaking, personal adjustment skills, and communication skills.

Gayle recently taught rehabilitation for the Michigan Rehabilitation Center for the Blind in Kalamazoo, Michigan, and also has been associated with the blind rehabilitation clinic at VA Hospital in Tacoma, Washington.

* * *

Cathy Ruffer, M.S.W., has been appointed a social worker for the Society. Prior to her present position, she worked as a clinical social worker at the Baw Beese Mental Health Center in Hillsdale, Michigan.

In her new assignment, Cathy will develop new programs and serve more blind and partially sighted persons on an individual basis.

* * *



John Schaub (right), community service chairman for Telephone Pioneers of America, Ohio Valley Chapter #80—Toledo Council, presented Society director, Barry McEwen, with two electronic location aids called “crickets” at a recent TPA meeting. The device is used by sighted persons for cross-country skiing, bicycling, etc. and enables blind persons to follow by sound. Mr. McEwen spoke on aids and appliances for the blind.



The Sign Post

Tentative arrangements have been made for the Toledo Society for the Blind, in conjunction with the American Foundation for the Blind, to host a regional (three-state) two-day workshop. Topics covered by nationally known speakers will be aging and blindness and diabetes and blindness. Watch for more information on this as it becomes available.

* * *

Flowers were planted near the entrance of the building by eight girl scouts from Troop 686, Cherry View Service Unit. The girls, accompanied by their leaders, Delores and Debra Anderson, came by bus to weed and prepare the soil before planting each flower. Thanks to them, the Society entrance is now more attractive.

* * *

The Society’s executive director, Barry McEwen, has been nominated as a delegate to the Ohio White House Conference on Library and Information Services to be held September 20-22, 1978. The conference will bring together a group of concerned citizens, librarians, and trustees to discuss library and information services and the information needs of individuals and groups.

* * *

Our sincere thanks to the Sisterhood of Temple Shomer Emunim who recently donated a binding machine to the Society. The machine has already been used to bind the new Workshop Manual.

* * *

Volunteers are needed to eye-screen 1,500 preschoolers from October 16-31 at the Zucker Center, 3350 Collingwood Avenue. This clinic is offered in connection with the Head Start program. Training conducted by Mrs. St. John and an ophthalmologist is scheduled for Wednesday, September 27, at the Society. For further information, contact Madge Levinson at the Society, 241-1183.

Volunteer Braille Transcribers Praised for School Materials

By Janet Cooke

“Of all the things for a volunteer to do, I’ve often wondered what would make a woman choose to learn braille. It often is a time-consuming task, and it takes more than a year of hard work to master. And yet, if there weren’t so many unselfish and completely dedicated people who felt an interest, I couldn’t do my job.”

For Phyllis Kniseley, materials coordinator for the Toledo public schools project for the visually impaired, the motivation to help the blind began at home.

Mrs. Kniseley and her husband, Robert, both certified braillists, are the parents of 16-year-old Bobby, who has been blind since birth.

“It grieved us that we could not read to him and share in his school-work as we had with our other children.” It was this grief, Mrs. Kniseley told members of the Sisterhood of Temple Shomer Emunim, which lead her to seek instruction in braille. And, after completing classes in 1968 at the former Mary Manse College, she became interested not only in assisting her young son, but in helping others handicapped by blindness.

Through her braille instructor, Alice

Levey of The Temple, she became aware of the braille-transcription program, sponsored by the sisterhood, and has been an active participant since then.

With the cooperation of the volunteer transcribers, Mrs. Kniseley has been able to fill the textbook needs of between 80 and 90 blind students in the Toledo public school system in grades 1 through 12.

Teachers send in their requests for textbooks each spring, and if the book has not been previously transcribed into braille, it is brought to the members of the volunteer transcribers group, “who have never turned down a request,” Mrs. Kniseley added.

The transcribers work under a great deal of pressure, she said, because often a book may not be requested until June, and many copies of it will be necessary by September. And, though a small group, the transcribers are extremely dedicated—a definite prerequisite because they do all of their work at home. They meet every Tuesday morning at The Temple, to proofread each other’s work, critique it, and provide assistance with any technical problems that members

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(Top) The Velvetone Choraliers under the direction of Ms. Pamela Weirich sang for blind and visually impaired guests during a recent Family Night dinner. (Bottom pictures, left to right standing) Mrs. Gladys Frazier from the Society and Tony LeGree, Sarah Zuercher, Julie Reaster, and Mark Bilow, high school members of Young Life (a nondenominational Christian outreach for high school students), helped serve before the concert.